

Abstract of the Invention

Method and system for conserving power used by a radiotelephone backlight. When at least one of a selected group of radiotelephone functions is presently in use and the ambient light intensity ALI at the radiotelephone is less than a reference value $ALI(ref)$, the backlight is powered to a selected power level for a selected timeout interval. Where the ALI value is at least equal to the $ALI(ref)$ value, or where none of the selected functions is presently in use, at the end of the timeout interval, power for the backlight is withdrawn. The $ALI(ref)$ value and/or the selected backlight power level are optionally adjustable according to at least one of a difference, $ALI(ref) - ALI$, and a ratio, $ALI/ALI(ref)$. The $ALI(ref)$ value and/or selected backlight power level are optionally adjustable for an individual user's requirements.

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